

# Tandem Snowplow Law

## Fact Sheet

### In 2019, Gov. Jared Polis signed House Bill 19-1265 into law, increasing penalties for motorists who pass snowplows.

It is now a Class A traffic offense to pass a snowplow operated by a state, county, or local agency when the truck is displaying its lights and operating in a tandem formation with one or more snowplows.

#### What is the bill?

- It is illegal for a driver to pass a snowplow that is operating in a tandem formation with one or more snowplows. The snowplows have the right-of-way.
- A Class A traffic offense includes fines ranging from \$15 to \$100 plus a surcharge. The Colorado DMV may also add points to the offender's driver's license.

#### What does it mean?

- In tandem formation, snowplows are arranged diagonally. Each snowplow is stationed behind and to the right or left of the unit ahead.
- Tandem formation staggers multiple plows to cover all lanes and clear the entire roadway in one sweep. This is the safest and most efficient snow removal method.
- Bow to the plow! It is extremely dangerous for motorists to try and pass plows in this formation because you could encounter white-out conditions and ridges of snow between lanes.

Stay back **3 to 4** car lengths from snowplows.



#### More Snowplow Information

For more information about how to stay safe around snowplows, visit [winter.codot.gov](http://winter.codot.gov), [COtrip.org](http://COtrip.org), or call 511 for traffic updates, weather forecasts and additional travel resources. To track snowplows in your area, visit [cotrip.org/snowplow.htm](http://cotrip.org/snowplow.htm).



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